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Dear Sir Michael

### **Lyons Inquiry – Consultation Paper and Interim Report**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issues raised in the consultation paper based on the work of the inquiry to date.

The attached document summarises the County Council's views on the five key issues relating to the role of local government and provides some more detailed observations on the funding issues highlighted in the consultation paper. The County Council believes that the test of any alternative system of local government funding should be the extent to which the system is:

- fair
- transparent
- easier to understand and explain
- more stable and predictable
- promotes accountability
- is determined in an open and accessible way

Some of the recent changes to the funding system have failed this test and the inquiry therefore has a difficult task in restoring confidence in the local government funding system.

Yours sincerely

Jon Pittam  
County Treasurer